

Final Report of Child Fatality or Near Fatality

Date Prepared: 8/7/14
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P.O. Box 1520
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DOB: 2/22/12 Race: W Gender: F

Type of Report: X Fatality ___ Near Fatality

Date of Fatality or Near Fatality: 5/7/12

Cause and Circumstances of the Child Fatality or Near Fatality

Date Investigation Initiated: 8/1/12

Summary of Allegations: On 8/1/12, SCDSS received a report that the child died on 5/7/12 of "positive asphyxiation"/"accidental smothering". Mother and maternal grandmother allowed the grandmother's boyfriend to place the child behind him on a loveseat while the boyfriend slept on the same loveseat. The grandmother permitted her boyfriend to provide supervision and care of the child while he consumed alcohol. The boyfriend smelled of alcohol when emergency responders and law enforcement officers arrived at the home on 5/7/12. The grandmother failed to disclose that her boyfriend was living in the home and was assisting with the child's care. On 5/11/12, the grandmother and her boyfriend failed to submit to requested drug screens. The grandmother was arrested and charged with "unlawful conduct toward a child" on 7/25/12. The boyfriend was arrested on 7/27/12 and was also charged with "unlawful conduct toward a child." Neither the mother nor the grandmother reported that the boyfriend was living in the home where the child was placed.

Case Decision: The case was indicated for neglect by the mother, grandmother, and the grandmother's boyfriend.

Date of Case Decision: 9/12/12

Basis for Case Decision: The child died on 5/7/12 of "positive asphyxiation" / "accidental smothering". The grandmother was arrested and charged with "unlawful conduct toward a child" on 7/25/12. The boyfriend was arrested on 7/27/12 and was also charged with "unlawful conduct toward a child." Neither the mother nor the grandmother reported that the boyfriend was living in the home where the child was placed.

The Department's Response After the Child Fatality or Near Fatality

No other children were placed in the home at the time of death.

SCDSS offered referrals to the mother including alcohol and other drug treatment, random drug testing, domestic violence counseling, parenting classes. For the father, SCDSS provided referrals to address domestic violence. SCDSS provided case management and monitoring services to both parents.

Whether the case is open or closed at the time of the child's fatality or near fatality: Closed

The family completed goals of the treatment plan and the case closed on 9/12/12.

Previous Child Abuse or Neglect Investigations that are Pertinent to the Child Fatality or Near Fatality. (Note: State law prohibits disclosure of records or information in unfounded cases).

Date Report Accepted for Investigation: 2/22/12

Summary of Allegations: On 2/22/12 SCDSS received a report alleging the mother delivered a baby today and tested positive for cocaine. It is unknown if the baby has any drugs in its system.

Date Investigation Initiated: 2/22/12

Case Decision: The case was indicated for physical abuse by the mother and substantial risk of physical abuse by the father.

Date of Case Decision: 4/4/12

Explain the Basis for Case Decision: SCDSS indicated the case for physical abuse by the mother because the mother and baby tested positive for cocaine. The case was indicated for substantial risk of physical abuse by the father due to criminal domestic violence between the parents. The child's toxicology report showed the child was positive for cocaine. Mother and father had been selling cocaine/drugs and had engaged in domestic violence.

SCDSS implemented a safety plan that required the maternal grandmother to supervise contact between the mother and child at all times. Another sibling was placed with the paternal grandmother through a safety plan.

SCDSS provided referrals for alcohol and other drug treatment, random drug testing, domestic violence counseling and parenting classes. SCDSS also referred the father to domestic violence

counseling. SCDSS provided case management and monitoring services through a Family Preservation Services case.

This case is currently open.